NEW-YORK, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1899.—FOURTEEN PAGES.

BRITISH ADVANCE.

BOER PREPARATIONS FOR A STRONG STAND AT SPYTFONTEIN-CAPE

COLONY DISAFFECTION.

London, Dec. 8, 6 a. m.-Great preparations are being made by the Boers to defend Spytfontein, the whole of the Mafeking commando having joined the Kimberley forces. "The Times's" correspondent mentions a rumor of the Boers

but this lacks confirmation. All the prisoners captured by the British at Modder River are being sent south. Among temptuous of the want of pluck shown by the

A searchlight message from Kimberley reports that there are provisions in the town for forty days and forage for thirty days.

General Buller has arrived at Frere Camp from Pietermaritzburg, and news of a forward movement of the British forces in Natal is anxiously awaited.

The state of affairs in Northern Cape Colony town District is reported by "The Standard" Staters have been cordially received by the inhabitants and the territory annexed.

A War Office bulletin issued at midnight states that a message has been received from the Red prisoners there. The figures show thirty-six the bulk of the rank and file have been removed from the Transvaal capital.

GREAT BATTLES IMPENDING.

NERVOUSNESS IN LONDON OVER THE

SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA [BY CABLE TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Dec. 8, 1 a. m .- Two great battles are impending before Ladysmith and Kimberley, and the Hotspurs are impatient to have them come. One leading English journal, impressed with the conviction that the situation of White's army is critical, deprecates delay and wellnigh raises a cry of "On to Ladysmith!" It has also published evidence of large reinforcements which General Cronje has received from Natal and Mafeking to enable him to make a strong stand at Spytfontein. The War Office, having allowed General Buller a free hand, is content to leave the campaign in his hands and devote its energies to the rapid dispatch of the Fifth and Sixth divisions and to arranging the details for the mobilization of the Seventh.

### FAVORABLE TO THE BRITISH.

Military men outside of that office do not hare the uneasy feeling of "The Times" that garrisons are in a critical condition and that the difficulties of the situation either on the Tugela or beyond the Modder are increased by the fnaction of the British forces. They as ert that both Generals Methuen and Clery, beig in searchlight communication with the begarrisons, know what is going on recisely how urgent is the need of relief. They de maintain that the Dutch forces have less b gain by delay than the British, since concenimportant advantage for the two relief columns than the strengthening of the defences of Coless and Spytfontein is for the enemy. The fituation, when viewed comprehensively at midnight, was distinctly favorable to the British side, and there was no apparent reason for burying, much less rushing, the campaign. Genen! Methuen, on resuming command on Wednesday, had an additional brigade of infatry, another regiment of lancers and an increased force of artillery, as well as cavalry. Et was in much better position for using the in. There were ample compensations for the being in mending the bridge, and if General Cronje had been reinforced the Dutch allies were weaker in Natal and Mafeking was ater in consequence of the concentration of thir commands around Kimberley.

The details of two sorties by Kekewich's gar-fact furnished by the War Office, Reuter and special correspondents proved how well it was able to protect itself. Taking advantage of the reakening of the besieging forces by the withtravals for the defence of Modder River, Keke-With's men attacked, first the enemy's centre and then, right afterward, his right flank, capt-Wed a leager and four redoubts, and destroyed large quantity of military stores and food-Muffs. It was a timely and brilliant stroke for which the garrison deserved Kekewich's thanks

### GENERAL CRONJE'S PERIL

fontein, but General Cronje will be in danger of having his retreat eastward to Jacobsdai cut off Methuen's force is now estimated to be fully

The gravest feature of the situation in Natal practice of the Boer batteries around Ladysmith. While the naval gun had knocked out a big Creusot and a howitzer, two more slege guns had been brought up, and, according to "The Times's" dispatches, three Creusots, four big howitzers, two batteries of long range field guns by. The rations, moreover, had been reduced d around in the garrison. General Buller not thly knows these facts, but has provided so strong a relief column that the siege will be Factically raised as soon as Clery is ready to Wrike the first blow. The British forces in Lower Natal are now estimated at 27,000, and General Clery will have not less than 20,000 hen for operations on either flank of Colenso. Buller may be waiting for the first six of Estieen powerful howitzers which were sent but from England. A single section of this battery arrived at Cape Town three days ago, and to lyddite shells would be a source of strength for the relief column.

Cautious veterans who discussed the situation last night refused to believe that Ladymith could be reduced to extremities when so arge a British army was encamped twentyfive miles away. There was an unconfirmed rumor during the evening that the Ladysmith farrison had made a successful sortle on Montay. Another bulletin was that the garrison was safe on Wednesday, and, unfortunately,

BULLER GOES FORWARD. there was a more trustworthy report that AGUINALDO TURNS SOUTH. MAZET'S SUDDEN QUITTING had been captured by the Boers outside the British lines. He is a brainy journalist and an ALL IN READINESS FOR THE excellent artist who did good work in the Santiago campaign, and left London at twenty-four hours' notice to represent three journals.

THE CAPE COLONY INVADERS.

The advance of the Free State raiders on Dordrecht and other towns of Cape Colony is not regarded as a serious affair by experts in touch with the War Office. General Gatacre is believed to be under orders to draw them on and hold them back from reinforcing the Dutch armies in Natal and on the western border. He must have over six thousand men on the East London line, and General French cannot have less than twenty-five hundred available for operating against Colesberg, with thirteen hundred troops at Port Elizabeth. But each General is playing with the enemy, probably under Buller's nstructions.

President Steyn's address to the Basutos causes grim amusement in London, and Premier Schreiner's reply to the President's shifty explanation of the invasion of Cape Colony is regarded with satisfaction as proof that the once friendly relations between these Dutch leaders

A solemn service was held yesterday in the Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks, where Mr. Gladstone was a frequent attendant during his later years. It was held in memory of the Guards killed in Methuen's three battles, and was attended by a large number of relatives and friends including many people of distinction and fashion. The uniforms of the Guardsmen contrasted with the sombre hue of the ladies costumes, and the solemn dirges and mournful chants were most impressive. London in wartime has hymns in minor keys as well as joyous I. N. F. pæans of music halls.

GENERAL BULLER GOES TO THE FRONT. Pietermaritzburg, Dec. 5 .- General Buller and his staff have started for the front.

London, Dec. 8.-General Buller's arrival at Frere is held to indicate that all the preparations for an advance to the relief of Ladysmith are complete and that stirring news will soon be re-The fact that Lord Methuen is announced as resuming his command at almost the same moment is interpreted in some quarters to mean that battles will be fought simultaneously n Natal and at Spytfontein. It appears doubtful, however, whether General Methuen's force is yet ready for what will evidently be # heavy encounter.

The construction of the temporary bridge across the Modder River has entalled enormous labor, and even now the structure is liable to be washed away should a heavy storm come. General Methuen has been obliged to move his camp a mile north in consequence of the unsanitary state of the stream, due to the presence of the bodies of dead Boers. As the railway bridge was completely destroyed, he was compelled to leave a considerable force to protect his com-

A special correspondent sends the interesting information regarding Boer tactics that Commandant General Joubert has given general orders to reserve fire until the British are within the close range of four hundred yards. At the Modder River battle the Free State burghers became nervous, opened fire prematurely, thus revealing their position, and frustrated the Boer

BOER LOSS AT MODDER RIVER. FIVE HUNDRED AND THIRTY KILLED OR WOUNDED ACCOUNTED FOR.

London, Dec. 8 .- "The Daily Mail" publishes

The Kimberley people are necessity of feeding ten thousand Basutos in the necessity of feeding ten thousand Basutos in the diamond fields, whom the Boers refuse to allow to depart and who, should they fall to get enough meat, would become discontented and restless.

On the night of the battle at Modder River On the night of the battle at Modder River Kimberley, missing the accustomed signals from here, was in great anxiety, fearing that we had been defeated. The fact was that we did not use our searchlight for fear the Boer guns would wreck the apparatus. Five hundred and thirty Boers were killed or wounded in the battle here. That number has already been accounted for and the enemy's losses were probably much

A special dispatch from Kimberley, dated Wednesday, November 29, says

As a result of signals from the relief force to the south and of certain movements on the part of the Boers. Colonel Kekewich determined to make a sortie with a view of keeping a large force of Boers employed here.

Yesterday afternoon a portion of the garrison, with artillery under Major Chamier and mounted troops under Major Scott-Turner, advanced southwest toward the Boer positions and cap-

ed troops under Major Scottins and cap-southwest toward the Boer positions and cap-tured Carter's Farm, which completed the line it was intended to hold in view of Lord Methuen's early approach.

Major Scott-Turner then turned his attention

Major Scott-Turner then turned his attention to the Boer laager, which he captured in fine style in spite of the enemy's heavy fire. All the camp equipment was captured or destroyed. Finally the British stormed the ridge and captured three redoubts after severe fighting.

In leading the men who were storming the fourth redoubt Major Scott-Turner and Lieutenant Wright were killed. It is alleged that they were struck by explosive builets. The death of Major Scott-Turner compelled the British to retire upon Carter's Farm, the whole affair having lasted four hours.

\*\*Mimberlay Dec 4 (via Modder River).—Every
\*\*Every-\*\*

Kimberley, Dec. 4 (via Modder River).-Every-

thing has been quiet here during the last three The theatre and the convent have been fitted up as hospitals. A number of our cattle have been captured by the enemy. Modder River. Dec. 4.—A searchlight message from Colonel Kekewich, at Kimberley, says the town is provisioned for forty days, with forage for thirty days, and has a plentiful

# ALL WELL AT LADYSMITH.

Frere Camp, Natal, Dec. 6.-A runner from Ladysmith, to-day, reports all well there. The bembardment, the messenger adds, continues, but is ineffective, the Boer shells only hitting

METHUEN RESUMES COMMAND. DEFEAT OF BOERS REPORTED BY RUNNERS FROM LADYSMITH-ON THE WEST-

ERN BORDER. London, Dec. 7 .- The War Office here has received the following message from General Forestier-Walker:

Cape Town, Dec. 6.—General Methuen wires to-day that he has resumed command and is nightly in communication with Kimberley. The health of the troops is excellent.

A story was current at Durban Tuesday, De cember 5, to the effect that the Boers made what is thought to have been their final effort to capture Ladysmith December 4, and were defeated and retreated. As the story was brought by runners it should be received with caution. as the untrustworthiness of these "Kaffirgrams" is notorious. According to this report the Boers opened a furious bombardment in the morning of December 4, continued it for hours, when the British finally silenced the Boer guns, made a sortie and hard fighting followed, the Boers retreating after very heavy losses, estimated in

The dispatches from Frere Camp partially Continued on third page.

THROUGH PULLMAN SLEEPER TO CLEVE-LAND

CHRISTMAS EDITION.

Pages. An Incomparable Holiday Edition—Adyt.

Via Pennsylvania Railroad leaves New York daily West 23rd St. 7:55 p. m., Cortlandt & Desbrosses Sts. 8:00 p. m.—Advt.

THE FUGITIVE REBEL MAKING FOR HIS OLD HOME.

SEEKING SAFETY IN CAVITE PROVINCE-AMERICAN OPERATIONS IN NORTH LUZON

Manila, Dec. 7.-The expectation of catching Aguinaldo in the north has been practically abandoned, and the probability now is that he will turn southward, if he is not already there, with his destination Cavité Province, his hom where the insurrection began, and where it still has its greatest strength. The Filipino soldiers in that province have recently been showing increased enthusiasm and boldness, and captured insurgents say that Aguinaldo is coming to join them with a large army. The same belief prevails among the natives at Manila and elsewhere that Aguinaldo intends to make his

headquarters in Cavité Province. There are three thousand insurgents befor Imus and Bacoor, keeping the Americans sleeping on their arms and nightly awaiting attack The Filipinos have several cannon. The first Mayor of Imus under the American regime, who ultimately deserted, is their leader in the assaults, and is ambitious to take the town. Three soldiers of the 4th Infantry have deserted, and are now with the enemy. Most of the inhabi tants of Imus are so strong in their sympathies with the insurgents that it is necessary to us a part of the regiment to patrol the streets and to prevent shooting from houses whenever an attack begins.

### HUNTING DOWN REBEL BANDS.

The American forces in the north have separated into many small commands and are pursuing bands of Filipinos. General MacArthur is engaged in clearing the mountain country west of the Manila-Dagupan Railroad. General Grant is moving from Angeles toward Subig with four hundred men. Colonel Bell is sweep ing south from Mangatarem. Thus far the American commanders have been unable to locate large bodies of insurgents, although there were about five hundred in San Clementine. nine miles south of Mangatarem, early in the

Colonel Hood, with the 16th Regiment and cavalry, and General Lawton, with a force from San Isidro, are operating against General Pilar's army in the San Mateo Valley

Major Batchelor, with a battalion of the 24th Infantry, is making a daring expedition. He left Bayombong, Province of Nueva Vizcaya, a week ago to march through Cagayan Valley to the north coast of Luzon, intending to reach Aparri, at the mouth of Cagayan River, the most important northern scaport of the island. While no large forces are known to be in his path, it may be that he has had some fighting, although the friendliness of the inhabitants is counted upon to help him. When he arrives at Aparri he will find a gunboat awaiting him. The Spanish prisoners in the Benguet region

are escaping from the Filipinos and are flocking into Vigan. Several hundred are already there and a steamer will go to bring them to Manila. The transport Manauense, which arrived here from San Francisco November 28, after a terrible voyage, was scheduled to start for home to day with discharged and sick soldiers. A large force has been employed in repairing her machinery, but it was impossible to get her in condition to leave Manila to-day, and her departur was postponed until next week. Her captain has secured a crew of Chinese at Hong Kong take her to San Francisco

The steamer Rosario, chartered by the Government to bring a load of cattle from the isla dispatch from Julian Ralph, at Modder River, and of Mampulugan to Iloilo, left Iloilo Monday and went ashore on the rocks near Mampulugan. Her crew and passengers were saved and taken to Negros. The transports Olympia and Pennsylvania ar-

There has been a mutiny of native police in one of the towns of the island of Negros. An American officer was killed. No particulars have yet been received.

GENERAL YOUNG REACHES VIGAN. A FORCE OF INSURGENTS DRIVEN BACK

Washington, Dec. 7.-To the relief of the War Department, General Young has been heard from after a week's absence in the interior of Luzon General Otis this morning sent the following

General Young reports his arrival at Vigan or the evening of the 5th, having encountered a force of the enemy at Narbacan, twelve miles south of the city, whom he drove to the east-ward of the same into San Quentin Canyon His troops are now pressing them back. Country is extremely rough and strongly intrenched About six hundred prisoners who escaped reported that the insurgents allowed all but the American and prominent Spanish prisoners to escape from Banguet. Later the insurgents were driven back into the mountains. Will send transportation, with subsistence and medical supplies, to Vigan to-morrow to bring the prisoners to Manila, and to supply Young's troops with necessary quartermaster's stores. Our cas-ualties were one killed and twelve wounded, wounds mostly slight. Enemy left in trenches twenty-five dead, a few rifles, several thousand rounds small ammunition and forty shrapnel. Young has sufficient troops to meet all difficul-

### THE SITUATION IN LUZON.

Washington, Dec. 7.-The War Department has received the following dispatch from General Otis respecting the military situation in

In Central Luzon there is no insurgent force of importance except in Bulucan Province near the mountains, where General Pilar holds together one thousand or more men, which will be attacked soon. General Grant has moved a small column down the east coast of Bataan Province, encountering little opposition. A column moving westward from the mountains is expected to reach the western coast of Luzon on the 10th inst. Many small insurgent armed bands are in the country, robbing and in some instances murdering the inhabitants, which are being pursued by troops quite successfully. To the south of Manila the insurgents still maintain their positions, but the necessary force to scatter them will be sent there soon. Manila, December 5. will be sent there soon.

SEARCHING FOR FILIPINO BOY. THE MASCOT OF THE TWENTIETH KANSAS RUNS

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 7.—Lieutenant Colin H. Ball, who swam the Bag-bag River with General Funston, is in the city searching for the little Filipino boy who came from Mayla as the 20th Filipino boy who came from Mayla as the 20th Kansas mascot. Lieutenant Ball took the young insurgent to his home in Sedan for the purpose of educating him, but the boy tired of school and ran away day before yesterday. It is thought that he is headed for Washington, and if he is not found here a watch will be kept for him at Chicago and St. Louis. He is a remarkably bright lad, speaks English a little, and shared the honors with Funston as an attraction when the 20th Regiment was welcomed home.

## SOCIALISTS MAY HOLD OFFICE.

two days, on the subject of the acceptance by M. Millerand of the portfolio of Minister of Commerce Millerand of the portfolio of Minister of Commerce in the Bourgeois Cabinet, the Socialistic Congress has adopted a compromise resolution admitting that it might, under certain circumstances, be advisable for a Socialist to accept such a portfolio, but that, as a general rule, Socialists should only hold posts to which they are elected.

HOTEL METROPOLE. SPECIAL TABLE D'HOTE à la Russe, \$1.00, from \$-9 p. m. Music. Restaurant à la carte at all hours. GOLDEN ROD RATHSKELLER. Deutsche Kusche.—Advi.

SUBPŒNA PLATT CAUSED IT.

NEITHER MEMBERS NOR COUNSEL WILL CONFIRM OR DENY THE RUMOR-MR. FALLOWS SAYS HE CAN GIVE NO MORE TIME TO

THE HEARINGS. The abrupt termination of the Mazet Committee's investigation on Wednesday was reported yesterday to have been caused by a decision of Frank Moss, of the committee's counsel, to call Senator Thomas C. Platt as a witness. Mr. Moss would not confirm the report and he would not contradict it. Members of the committee avoided direct contradiction of the report, while declaring that there had been no intention to force Senator Platt into the witness chair. Indications of a want of harmony in the committee and of conflict between the committee and its counsel were given in conversations with newspaper men who tried to confirm the report about

Mr. Moss, according to report, had an understanding with Mr. Mazet at the beginning of the week to hold sessions for taking testimony on Wednesday, yesterday, to-day and to-morrow, and had planned to call Senator Platt as the chief witness for to-morrow. The Republican members of the committee were not aware of the plan to call Senator Platt, it was reported, until they received word from Mr. Moss by mail early on Wednesday morning. If such announcement was made by Mr. Moss, it might easily have explained the absence of so many Republican members of the committee from the Astor House on Wednesday. They may have decided that the best way of avoiding trouble with Mr. Moss was to stay away from the session. Mr. Mazet took advantage of the lack of a quorum to announce that no further testimony would be taken by the committee.

Four of the members of the committee-Assemblymen Fallows, Costello, McEwan and Wilson-have been re-elected to the Assembly, and are organization Republicans, who do not wish to displease Senator Platt. Mr. Mazet, who was defeated in the election, has been too steadfast in his allegiance to the organization leader to go directly contrary to his wishes. Senator Platt has been in Washington this week, but is expected to return to this city to-day. He has made the members of the committee understand that he was not willing to give testimony. If he had been willing he would have gone upon the witness stand before the election.

### MOSS AND MAZET,

Mr. Mazet said vesterday that he had received several letters from Mr. Moss about witnesses, but he would not talk about a letter which Mr. Moss sent to him on Wednesday morning. He declared that there had not been any intention to call Senator Platt as a witness before the committee. Senator Platt, he said, had nothing

to do with the stopping of the investigation. When Mr. Moss was told what Mr. Mazet had said he made the remark: "Mr. Mazet must

speak for himself, not for me." Assemblyman Fallows appeared to be rather disgusted last night at the manner in which the Mazet Committee bids fair to wind up its career. He was at the Hotel Cadillac with his wife and me friends, and was seen in company with Assemblymen McEwan and Costello, of the committee, at 11:30 o'clock by a Tribune reporter, to whom he said:

'Mr. Moss's alleged desire to have the committee meet this week or at all hereafter for the hearing of testimony was a great surprise to me. On Tuesday, November 28, I had a conversation with Mr. Mazet in the committee rooms. ing day would be the last, and it was so understood by the committeemen present. He suggested that I should preside, as he wanted to go with his wife on a visit to spend Thanksgiving Day out of town. I consented because I understood it to be the last meeting. The committee, and not the paid counsel of the committee, has the right to arrange the sittings of the committee. I am satisfied that Mr. Mazet

had no knowledge of Mr. Moss's plans. "To your knowledge, was Senator Platt about

to be subposnaed by Mr. Moss?" "I know absolutely nothing about such an intention on the part of Mr. Moss. It strikes me, however, that if Mr. Moss wanted Senator Platt as a witness the time to call him was before he went to Washington. He had plenty of time before Congress assembled. Now Senator Platt is attending to his official duties in Washington, and to call him as a witness at this time might look somewhat strange to some people. Personally. I cannot give any more time to the committee. My business has suffered on account of lack of attention, and the short time left between now and January 1 must be given to it."

Mr. Moss refused to talk further on the ubject, except to say that he was ready to do his duty, and the committee knew he was ready. "I am willing only to say that the committee knew that I was prepared to sustain the legal and moral integrity of the investigation," Mr.

Moss said. The Mazet Committee will have an executive ession this morning to talk over the preparation of a report to the Legislature. Counsel and members of the committee said yesterday that they were not willing to tell where the meeting was to be held, because they did not wish to be

plished by the investigating committee, Mr. Moss said:

Moss said:

"I consider the work done as most valuable. I think this has been the most meaty investigation New-York City has ever had. I will prepare my report for the committee at once, and will place it before the members. What they will do as to the report they will make to the Legislature I cannot say. If they wish my assistance in preparing their report they can, of course, command it. The reports will be ready by December 28. I think.

"I do not care to say anything now about the nature of the reports. I do not think the time has arrived for that. There were many things I wanted to go into deeper, but of course that cannot be done now.

"As to the question of contempt proceedings,

"As to the question of contempt proceedings, that is a matter that will have to come before the Legislature. I know nothing about it. "The work done by the committee exceeds in

"The work done by the committee exceeds in volume and importance. I think, that performed by the Lexow Committee. The testimony and report of the committee cover about ten thousand pages, while that of the Lexow covered about seven thousand.

"The intention of the committee was to test the new charter and the present system of municipal government. It has shown many conditions that should be changed, and has given information on many points that have hitherto been obscured."

Chairman Odell of the Republican State Committee, who had been with Senator Platt in

Chairman Odell of the Republican State Committee, who had been with Senator Platt in Washington and left there on Wednesday, said last evening at the Flifth Avenue Hotel that Senator Platt had not been aware of any plan to call him as a witness before the Mazet Committee. "I knew before I went to Washington that there would be no more public sessions of the committee," Mr. Odell said. Other Republicans who talked with Mr. Odell at the hotel said that Mr. Moss had undertaken to set himself up as a boss of the committee and had made plans for the close of testimony which the committee for the close of testimony which the committee did not like. The result was a sudden stopping of the investigation.

PENNSYLVANIA LIMITED Daily via Pennsylvania Ratiroad to Chicago St. Louis, Indianapolis, Louisville, Cincinnati, Colum-bus, Cleveland, Toledo and Detroit.—Advi.

### ASTORIA COMPANY'S GRANT.

REPORT THAT MOSS'S INTENTION TO LAND BOARD TAKES FAVORABLE ACTION-NEW-YORK CITY MAY CONTEST IT IN THE COURTS.

> [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.] Albany, Dec. 7 .- The proposition of John T. Mc-Donough, Secretary of State, that the State authorities should only lease for brief periods, and never sell, the valuable lands under water about New-York Harbor has been defeated, temporarily at least. To-day the Land Board, of which he is a member, granted sixteen and one-half acres of land under water at Berrian Island, Astoria, to the Astoria Light, Heat and Power Company of New-York. This company, as is well understood, designs o construct gigantic gas works on the mainland at Berrian Island and send gas from that location by means of a tunnel, to be constructed under the East River, to gas companies in New-York. firm of Tracy, Boardman & Platt has had the management of the application of the Astoria Light, Heat and Power Company here, and was represented by two of its members before the Land Board to-day, who were naturally pleased over the

> result of their work. The value of the land to be sold to the Astoria Light, Heat and Power Company had been appraised at \$3,506 50, or at the rate of \$200 an acre It is reported here that certain land under water about New-York Harbor is worth \$200,000 an acre But the Land Board to-day apparently had no suspicion that a mistake might have been made in this appraisement of the land at Astoria as being worth only \$200 an acre, for there was little consideration of this phase of the subject or an at tempt made to get larger compensation for the

The members of the Land Board present were Lieutenant Governor Woodruff, Speaker Nixon of the Assembly, Secretary of State McDonough, Controller Morgan, Attorney General Davies, State Treasurer Jaeckel and State Engineer Bond. Their ction on the application of the Astoria Light Heat and Power Company must be approved of by Governor Roosevelt, since he signs the patent which will be issued to the corporation. The possible action of the Governor on the patent is of in terest, but apparently, judging from the action of the Land Board to-day, its members think he will not insist upon the adoption of a leasing policy. The Astoria Light, Heat and Power Company was presented here to-day before the Land Board by James R. Soley and G. S. Bonner, of the firm of Tracy, Boardman & Platt.

There was also present, but merely as a looker on, Edward J. Freedman, who represented the city of New-York. Mr. Freedman stated after the grant had been made that the city of New-York disputed the right of the Land Board to make it, and that possibly proceedings would be taken in the courts of Albany County by New-York City to enjoin the Land Board or Governor Roosevelt from issuing

of Albany County by New-York City to enjoin the Land Board or Governor Roosevelt from issuing the patent, on the ground that the city authorities, by the terms of the New-York City charter, have the exclusive control of the waterfront lands. Mr. Freedman also thought the Land Board had not protected the city's rights in lands at the ends of streets as it should have done.

When the meeting of the Land Board opened Secretary of State McDonough stated that a conference had been held with the Governor about leasing the State's lands under water, but no definite conclusion, except that absolute grants should not be made, had been reached. The committee which had waited upon the Governor, however, favored the passage of a resolution declaring that the Land Board would hereafter refuse to grant the Land Board would hereafter refuse to grant any lands absolutely, and insist upon some restrictions. This would be a return to the practice of the Land Board before 1884. He then offered a resolution cancelling a form of patent which provided for an absolute grant, and this resolution was unanimously adopted.

It was argued by Controller Morgan that the land should revert to the State unless it was improved within five years. In reply, Mr. Soley pointed out that the company had aiready expended \$30,000 on the property, which ought to be a sufficient guarantee of its good faith.

In the end the Land Board unanimously adopted the grant applied for by the Astoria company, with the provision: "That unless the fulfilment of the purposes set forth in the application and the grant be entered upon in good faith within five years this grant shall be null and void." The date for the Governor's sighsture was written December 12, for the reason that the Governor will be in Albany on that day, and the Land Board will also be in session, at which time it is stated the firm of Tracy, Boardman & Plate will have an opportunity to suggest amendments to the grant.

### ARGUMENTS ENDED IN KENTUCKY CASE

MATTER OF HEARING CONTESTS-LONG

OPINION EXPECTED. Frankfort, Ky., Dec. 7 (Special).-The arguments in the election cases closed this afternoon with the two and a half hour speech of Judge Thomas F. Hargts for the Democrats. He paid especial at-tention to the vote of Louisville, barely touching on other cases. He said the voting at Louisville was rendered illegal by the presence of the militia and by reason of the injunctions granted by Judge Toney. He declared that should Goebel seated the case would be carried into the Legis-

reconvene when it reached and prepared its deing. The opinion will be about five thousand words long and will go into the details of the cases. Every authority bearing on the cases will be used by the Board, as it is determined to be guided by the law, but the trouble with the politicians is that they cannot tell just what construction they in-

tend putting on the law. The Republicans feel that the proposed length of the document indicates that the Board will give the certificate to Goebel. Goebel men are here in

the certificate to Goebel. Goebel men are here in larger numbers than ever to-day, and they seem to think their man has the Governorship within his grasp. It is stated by one of the Commissioners that he will resign as soon as the decision has been rendered, and he intimates that the other members of the Board will also resign.

Some mountain Republicans still remain, although many of them have gone home. Those who were arrested and fined for carrying concealed weapons have been put to work on the city chain gang cleaning streets. It is not believed that there will be any violence, no matter how the Board decides the election. Alexander Humphreys, one of the attorneys for the Republicans, advises penceable submission to the mandates of the Board if Taylor is not seated.

mission to the mandates of the board it laylor is not scated to-night that the Commissioners will decide in favor of the Republican State ticket, and that their decision will be rendered to-morrow afternoon. At a late hour to-night they were still working on the decision, having begun early in the afternoon.

BELIEVE TAYLOR WILL GET DECISION. TWO OF THE COMMISSIONERS SAID TO THINK

Louisville, Ky., Dec. 7 (Special).—The State Board of Election Commissioners heard the last argument of the Democratic counsel at the State Capitol this morning, and announced that a decision would be handed down to-morrow or Saturday, A voluminous one is expected, as the Commissioners wish to review the law and the arguments. From the best information possible to get to-night, it is believed certain that Taylor will get the certificate, by the votes of the chairman, Judge Pryor, and Commissioner Ellis. Commissioner Poyntz makes no pre-tence of concealing his opinion, declaring that Goebel has won. Commissioners Pryor and Ellis contend that the law is plain that the Board can-not go behind the returns nor hear a contest in

not go behind the returns nor hear a contest in the race for Governor and Lieutemant-Governor. They so ruled last year. As Goebel drew the law they feel the more impelled to obey it.

It is said strong efforts have been made to influence the decision of the Board, one being an attempt to secure a judgment from the Court of Appeals that thin ballots, such as were used in some strong Republican counties, are invalid. Such a case is before the Court of Appeals, and rumor has it that the decision is ready, but that the Court refuses to hand it down at this juncture lest it be regarded as a political expedient. The lower court which tried the case ruled that the ballots were legal. It was reported this afternoon that Goebel had a bitter quarrel with one of his friends who recommended the appointment of Cantain Ellis, because the friend could not control Ellis's opinion.

It is now generally conceded that the decision of the commission will be accepted and no contest made before the Legislature.

### THE CONSPIRACY TRIALS.

Paris, Dec. 7.-In the Senate sitting as a High Court to-day, M. Blanc, the former Prefect Police, testified that M. Déroulède and M. Guérin received money from the Royalists, at which M. Guérin vehemently protested, and asked M. Blanc to give instances of such payments. The witness thereupon admitted that he only possessed moral proofs.

The former Prefect of Police, M. Lepine, testified that the investigations he had made convinced him that the three leagues acted in concert in their demonstrations, which, he added, were very dangerous, as arms had been found on the demonstrators

## CURRENCY BILL'S OUTLOOK

PASSAGE BY THE HOUSE EXPECTED

NEXT WEEK.

### REAL CONTEST TO OCCUR IN THE SENATE

FINANCE COMMITTEE-COMMITTEE ON RULES APPOINTED [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, Dec. 7 .- The failure of the Republican and Democratic managers in the House of Representatives to agree on a limit of debate on the Currency bill, followed by the Speaker's appointment of a Committee Rules, foreshadows the passage of the Republican Caucus Committee's Currency bill by the end of the coming week. The Rules Committee will report a resolution to-morrow calling up the currency measure for immediate consideration, and fixing a vote for some day in the near future. The debate in the House will be comparatively brief, for the Republican side has already settled all differences in caucus, and the minority can offer only a perfunctory opposition. The House bill will go to the Senate Committee on Finance, and the real struggie to pass a satisfactory currency measure will then begin. The Republican leaders in the upper house do not expect to take up the pending Aldrich bill until some time in January, and the debate on it will run for at least five of six weeks.

The Speaker's choice of colleagues for service on the Rules Committee surprised no one. Mr. Dalzell, of Pennsylvania, was second to Mr. Henderson on the same committee in the last Congress, and Mr. Grosvenor was clearly the most available other Republican for the vacancy created by Mr. Reed's retirement and General Henderson's promotion to the Speaker's chair. Mr. Richardson was entitled to the ranking minority place by virtue of his recent choice for the minority leadership, while Mr. Bailey merely retains the committee assignment he has filled for the last two Congresses. The new Rules Committee is therefore an evenly balanced and thoroughly representative one

The session of the House lasted only half an hour to-day. Mr. Overstreet, in charge of the Currency bill, attempted to secure an agreement for its consideration next week, but Mr. Richardson, the minority leader, rejected all proposals, on the ground that a bill so important as this should go through the regular channels. The Speaker thereupon appointed the Committee on Rules, which is to include himself, Mr. Dalzell, of Pennsylvania; Mr. Grosvenor, of Ohio; Mr. Richardson, of Tennessee, and Mr. Bailey, of Texas. They will hold a meeting and decide upon a rule for limits of the debate.

### WOOD MAY BE GOVERNOR OF CUBA.

LIKELY TO SUCCEED GENERAL BROOKE,

WHO IS TO RETURN HOME. Washington, Dec. 7.-General Leonard Wood had a conference with the Secretary of War today regarding his future. While they had nothing to say for publication as to the conclusions eached, it is understood that General Wood is to be the next Governor of Cuba, succeeding General Brooke, who will return to the United States. It is expected that the military force in Cuba will be greatly reduced in the near future so that while General Wood will, by commanding the troops remaining, be a Military Governor, there will be so little left of the military establishment that his office will be much more civil than military in fact. The reduction in force will enable the War Department to with-draw some or perhaps all of the general officers of the Regulars now in Cuba.

### LOSS OF LIFE IN A FACTORY FIRE.

HUNDREDS OF GIRLS IN PERIL AND ONE

BURNED TO DEATH AT READING, PENN, Reading, Penn., Dec. 7 (Special).-Louise Clay was burned to death and the lives of six hundred others were imperilled here to-day by a fire in the hoslery factory of Nolde & Herst. Fully sixty were injured, some so badly that

they may die. There were many narrow escapes from the impending danger. The employes say that it was the custom to lock the outer doors of the factory after all the employes were in, also that there were wire screens at the windows on the third floor where they worked, and these were nailed fast, except where the fire escapes were situated, and there the screens could be

pushed up and taken out. The flames broke out in what is known as the singeing room, where an explosion of gasolene set fire to the woodwork. From there it spread with great rapidity to other parts of the factory. The building was 100 by 400 feet in size, four stories high, and about six hundred girls

were employed. The girls were at once thrown into a panic Some ran for the windows, but most of them were covered with wire screening. Others made for the roof and the fire escapes, the ladders of which were up. Consequently the frightened girls could not reach the ground at once. The ladders were finally placed in position, but this took considerable time, and the girls could not wait for that. First one jumped to the ground and then another. Those in the rear forced forward those already on the fire escapes, and those huddled in front were obliged to jump,

A number were rescued from the roof by ladders brought from wherever they could be found. A number of men, as soon as the dangerous condition of the girls was known, secured feather beds and quilts, which they used as life saving nets, into which the girls jumped. Neighbors took the injured in until they could away. as life saving nets, into which the girls jumped. Neighbors took the injured in until they could be removed to their homes. The scenes attending the jumping for life were the most thrilling seen in this city. Many girls were in such a mental state that they could not be controlled. All were in great distress, and their screams and pitiful cries could be heard a long distance. Fire and smoke drove them in all directions and surged the excitement.

Fire and smoke drove them in all directions and spread the excitement.

Almost instantly after the breaking out of the fire the entire building was filled with smoke. Then the fire extended from one floor to another, shooting up the elevator shafts, and in a brief time the interior of the factory resembled a flery furnace, and the flames rose for at least a hundred feet above the burning structure. The building was destroyed in a short time.

The loss on the building was \$300,000, and the insurance was \$150,000.

## MAY BE LOST IN ALASKA.

NOTHING HEARD OF LIEUTENANT HERRON'S

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 7 (Special).—Great apprehen-ion has been caused in Army circles by the fact that returning steamers from Cook Inlet and St. Michaels have brought no tidings of the missing Herron party of explorers in Alaska. In June last Lieutenant Joseph S. Herron, 8th Cavalry, United States Army, led a party of twelve men, including three Indian guides, on an expedition of the Sushitna River, and thence by way of the Yetno River to

On the steamer Duchesnay Lieutenant Herron's On the steamer Duchesnay Lieutenant Herron's party was taken to the upper waters of Sushitas in June, with orders to proceed to the Tanana and thence to the mouth of that stream and down the Yukon to St. Michaels. When he reached the divide Lieutenant Herron's guides deserted him, leaving the little party in an untracked and unmapped wilderness. It is feared that the party sor into the Kuskokwim Valley by mistake and came out on Behring sea, remote from settlements of transportation lines.

TAKE THE LATEST TRAIN
to St. Louis and the Southwest via New York Cen-tral-Big Four Route. Leaves Grand Central Sta-tion every day at 920 p. m.—Advi.